

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

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S/S:WHLUERS

S: MR. GOMPERT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024729

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, IN, PK

SUBJECT: CHAVAN LETTER ON ARMS POLICY

TE FOLLOWING LETTER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM FONMIN CHAVAN, DATED 28 JANUARY 1975, WAS DELIVERED 31 JANUARY, AFTER 30 JANUARY APPOINTMENT BETWEEN SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR KAUL WAS POSTPONED OWING TO TIGHTNESS OF SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE. BEGIN QUOTE:

1. DEAR MR. SECRETARY: DURING YOUR VISIT TO NEW DELHI LAST OCTOBER, WE HAD OCCASION TO DISCUSS OUR COMMON PURPOSES OF STRENGTHENING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THIS REGION AND TO END TWO DECADES OF TENSION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN WHICH IN TURN HAD CAST A SHADOW ON THE RELATIONS WITH USA. FROM OUR SIDE WE CONVEYED TO YOU INDIA'S DESIRE TO PROMOTE RECONCILIATION WITH PAKISTAN ON THE BASIS OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT. WE WERE GRATIFIED AT YOUR RENEWED SUPPORT TO THE SIMLA AGREEMENT AND WELCOMED YOUR PUBLIC ASSURANCES THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN AN ARMS RACE ON THE SUBCONTINENT.

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2. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS AWARE THAT AS A

RESULT OF PAINSTAKING NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, INDIA AND PAKISTAN HAVE CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS ON SOME OF THE SPECIFIC SUBJECTS ENVISAGED IN THE

SIMLA AGREEMENT TO NORMALISE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT IS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE AGREEMENTS THAT CONFIDENCE CAN BE CREATED TO ESTABLISH GOOD NEIGHBOURLY AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS ON A FIRM FOUNDATION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTINUATION OF THIS PROCESS RESULTING IN THE EARLY RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND STRENGTHENING OF ALL ROUND COOPERATION THUS SECURING A STRUCTURE OF PEACE ON LONG TERM BASIS SO ESSENTIAL FOR THIS REGION. THESE OBJECTIVES ARE CERTAINLY IN THE VITAL INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES AND, INDEED, ARE IN LINE WITH THE DECLARED POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. ANY CHANGE OF U.S. ARMS POLICY AT THIS STAGE WOULD BE EXPLOITED BY BELLIGERENT ELEMENTS IN PAKISTAN AND IS BOUND TO ENCOURAGE ALL THOSE WHO ARE OPPOSED TO INDO-PAKISTAN DETENTE AND AMITY. IT WOULD CERTAINLY REVIVE TENSIONS ON THE SUB-CONTINENT AND BE A SERIOUS SET-BACK TO THE SLOW BUT HOPEFUL PROCESS OF NORMALISATION.

3. WE WERE DEEPLY DISTRESSED TO READ THE INTERVIEW GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN TO THE NEW YORK TIMES IN WHICH HE MADE A TOTALLY UNFOUNDED ALLEGATION THAT INDIA WAS CONTEMPLATING AN ATTACK ON PAKISTAN. WE COULD ONLY INTERPRET THESE IMAGINARY CHARGES AS AN ENDEAVOUR TO JUSTIFY DEMANDS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF MILITARY SUPPLIES BY THE USA.

4. MR. SECRETARY, ON THE BASIS OF FACTS AND BACKGROUND, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL AGREE THAT PAKISTAN'S FEARS ABOUT MILITARY THREAT FROM INDIA ARE WHOLLY FANCIFUL AND UNWARRANTED. WE HAVE GIVEN A SOLEMN PLEDGE IN THE SIMLA AGREEMENT TO WORK FOR DURABLE PEACE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT AND TO SETTLE ALL OUR DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY AND THROUGH BILATERAL NEGOTIATION. BESIDES, WE HAVE PUBLICLY DECLARED THAT AS A NEIGHBOUR, WE ARE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN PAKISTAN'S INTEGRITY, STABILITY
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AND PROGRESS. YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT A HOT LINE BETWEEN ARMY HEADQUARTERS AT ISLAMABAD AND DELHI HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT. THERE EXISTS ALSO AN UNDERSTANDING ALONG THE LINE OF CONTROL IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR FOR BILATERAL FLAG MEETINGS TO SORT OUT ALLEGATIONS ON THE INCIDENTS OF VIOLATIONS. MAY I ADD THAT WE ARE EVEN WILLING TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO ASSUAGE SUCH IRRATIONAL SENSE OF INSECURITY,

IF GENUINELY HARBOURED, ON THE PART OF PAKISTAN. WE ARE PREPARED TO AGREE TO DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN INDIAN AND PAKISTANI OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO EVOLVE SOME MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE FORM OF DISENGAGEMENT ALONG THE WESTERN BORDER.

THE PROSPECT OF SUCH CONCRETE STEPS IS BOUND TO BE JEOPARDIZED WITH A REVIVAL OF MILITARISM OR THE INDUCTION OF FRESH WEAPONS.

5. MR. SECRETARY, YOU ARE AWARE THAT IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INDO-US RELATIONS NOT ONLY ON THE BILATERAL PLANE BUT IN ORDER TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING ON WIDER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, WE HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN SINCERE EFFORTS TO PLACE OUR RELATIONS ON A MATURE AND CONSTRUCTIVE BASIS. YOUR RECENT VISIT TO DELHI CREATED A BETTER ATMOSPHERE AND HELD THE PROMISE OF GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE. IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE IF PROSPECT OF IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP SHOULD NOW BE ARRESTED OR RECEIVES A SET-BACK. IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE PAST, OUR PARLIAMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION ARE BOUND TO REACT STRONGLY AGAINST THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO SUPPLY OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED AS THE REVIVAL OF OLD DISCREDITED POLICIES. MR. SECRETARY, THE LONG TERM INTEREST OF PEACE AND STABILITY ON THE SUB-CONTINENT HAS SUCH AN OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE TO OUR REGION THAT THESE OBJECTIVES SHOULD NOT BE SACRIFICED FOR ANY NARROW SHORT TERM CONSIDERATIONS ADVANCED BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN.

6. SINCE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S DECISION ON THE SUPPLY OF ARMS TO THE SUB-CONTINENT CAN HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSION, I THOUGHT I SHOULD IN ALL FRANKNESS SHARE
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MY CONCERN WITH YOU. WITH KIND REGARDS, YOUR SINCERELY,
SGD/- Y.B. CHAVAN. END QUOTE.

7. SECRETARY NOW SCHEDULED TO SEE AMBASSADOR KAUL
TUESDAY MORNING FEB. 4. KISSINGER

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